



# INFORMER

#3, June 2017

Professional Engineers in California Government

## Storm Damage and SB 1



The drought is over, but the deluge that quenched California's five-year thirst also damaged the State's highways and local roads. The repair cost will be more than \$1.4 billion.

The Trump Administration has authorized \$274 million for emergency response costs to stabilize the damaged Oroville Dam spillways and to remove debris. In addition, a \$275 million contract was awarded by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to pay for the first year of the two-year project to rebuild and replace the spillways.

The record storms focused attention on roads and dams that for decades have needed maintenance and repair.

Meanwhile, a different kind of downpour, \$2 billion per year in new tax revenue, is scheduled to begin flowing to Caltrans in November. The Legislature and the Governor approved Senate Bill 1, which will increase transportation funding in California for the first time in 24 years. Increasing the fuel tax and vehicle fees will raise \$5.2 billion annually, with about 20% going to public transit and the balance split between Caltrans and local agencies. Caltrans' share will be divided evenly between maintenance and a program that

concentrates on fixing existing state highways rather than new projects to add capacity.

The Department's primary engineering program, Capital Outlay Support (COS), has seen its staff numbers shrink

by 28% over the last 10 years as employees left and were not replaced due to declining revenue. Before Senate Bill 1 passed, the Department projected it would cut staff by another 3% in the upcoming fiscal year.

With the bill's passage, however, that plan has changed. The latest State Budget proposal for 2017-18 authorizes filling 435 COS staff vacancies. More can be added as needed. About 60% of COS staff are engineers, with the rest including planners, administrators, and others.

Due primarily to referrals from you, the membership, PECG individually contacted 1,300 engineers and related professionals interested in working for Caltrans. PECG explained the hiring process and assisted prospective candidates to apply for positions and be placed on hiring lists. This ensures that there will be plenty of qualified applicants once the State Budget is approved, which should happen later this month.



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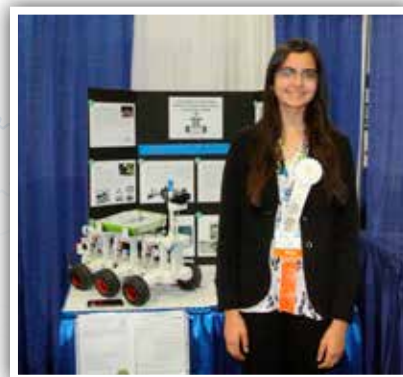
# PECG Congratulates Intel International Science and Engineering Fair Winners



Teevyah Yuva Raju



Arya Goutam



Guadalupe Bernal

The NorCal STEM Education Foundation, a non-profit supported by PECG, sent three student finalists to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair last week. All three brought back awards.

**Teevyah Yuva Raju** from Mira Loma High School received \$500 for taking 4th place in her category of Plant Sciences. Her project investigated reversing drought-triggered organic imbalances in soil that harms crops.

**Arya Goutam**, who attends The Nueva School, won 3rd place and \$1,000 in the Embedded Systems category. He built the hardware and software for a low-cost wearable motion-sensing device that alerts family members via cell phone in the event of a person's fall, even if they are unconscious.

**Guadalupe Bernal** of Folsom High School also won \$1,000 for finishing 3rd in the Robotics and Intelligent Machines category. She built and programmed an autonomous vehicle that uses computer vision to navigate.

The students qualified after earning top honors in May at the NorCal STEM Foundation's competition at American River College in Sacramento. PECG is a key sponsor and also provided 50 volunteers to help judge more than 300 projects.

The Intel event in Los Angeles is the world's largest international pre-college science and engineering competition, drawing approximately 1,800 students from 75 countries.

## NOMINEES FOR PECG CORPORATE OFFICE

The candidates for **PECG Corporate Office for 2017-18** are listed below. Ballots will be mailed to all PECG members on **July 11**. The successful candidates will be installed at the Annual Board Meeting in September. The nominees, with their classifications and PECG Sections, are:

### PRESIDENT ELECT

- ★ **Cathrina Barros** - Senior Transportation Engineer, Caltrans, Sacramento Section
- ★ **Keith Mack** - Senior Transportation Engineer, Caltrans, Marysville Section

### VICE PRESIDENT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

- ★ **Joya Gilster-Nava** - Transportation Engineer, Civil, Caltrans, Inland Empire Section
- ★ **Matt Hanson** - Transportation Engineer, Civil, Caltrans, Capitol Section

### VICE PRESIDENT SUPERVISORY

- ★ **Steve Lee** - Senior Transportation Engineer, Caltrans, Sacramento Section
- ★ **Joseph Mello** - Senior Engineering Geologist, Water Resources Control Board, River City Section

### VICE PRESIDENT AT LARGE

- ★ **Kristi Shelton** - Water Resource Control Engineer, Water Resources Control Board, River City Section
- ★ **Hafizur Chowdhury** - Air Resources Engineer, Air Resources Board, Fort Sutter Section

### SECRETARY

- ★ **Jane Pham** - Transportation Engineer, Civil, Caltrans, Inland Empire Section
- ★ **Sarabjit Cheema** - Transportation Engineer, Civil, Caltrans, Bay Area Section

### TREASURER

- ★ **Ryan Atencio** - Air Resources Engineer, Air Resources Board, Los Angeles Section
- ★ **Aaron Henkel** - Senior Transportation Engineer, Caltrans, San Luis Obispo Section

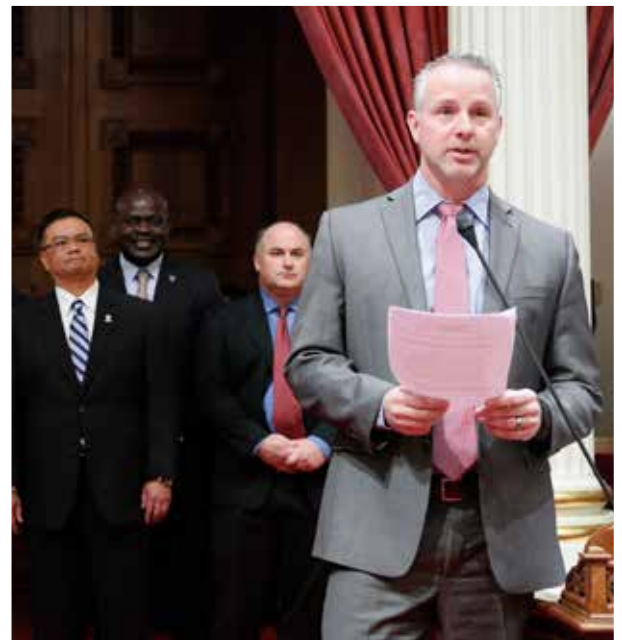
The current President, **Robert Lumahan**, a Transportation Engineer in San Diego, will become Past President. The current President Elect, **Sutida Bergquist**, a Senior Sanitary Engineer at the Water Resources Control Board in Los Angeles, will become President.

## California Academic Decathlon



More than 500 students from 65 schools competed in the **2017 California Academic Decathlon**. PEGC President Elect **Sutida Bergquist** presents the award for Most Outstanding Math-Science Student to **Mark Aguila** from Granada Hills Charter School, who achieved a perfect score of 1,000 in both math and science!

## Engineers Week Resolution



State Senator **Anthony Canella**, on the Senate Floor with PEGC President **Robert Lumahan** (left) and others, authored Senate Resolution 18 recognizing **2017 Engineers Week**.



## PEGC Four-Section Meeting Welcomes State Treasurer John Chiang

In April, PEGC's Capitol, Fort Sutter, River City and Sacramento Sections hosted a luncheon meeting featuring State Treasurer **John Chiang** as keynote speaker.



PEGC member **Darren Suen** (left) and President **Robert Lumahan** (right) welcome special guest **John Chiang**.



State Treasurer **John Chiang** addresses the meeting attendees.

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## 2017 Annual NASHTU Conference



PECG is a cofounder of the National Association of State Highway and Transportation Unions (NASHTU), which now includes 34 affiliate organizations in 21 states. NASHTU works at the federal and state levels to seek additional funding for transportation and oppose wasteful outsourcing. NASHTU's Annual Conference was held in Washington, D.C. in April.



California Congressman **John Garamendi** (D-CA) receives PECE's **2016 Legislator of the Year Award** from PECE Corporate Officers (l-r) Mark Sheahan, Sutida Bergquist, Robert Lumahan and Matt Hanson.



Congressman **Ami Bera** (D-CA) addresses attendees at the NASHTU Annual Conference Reception in Washington, D.C.

